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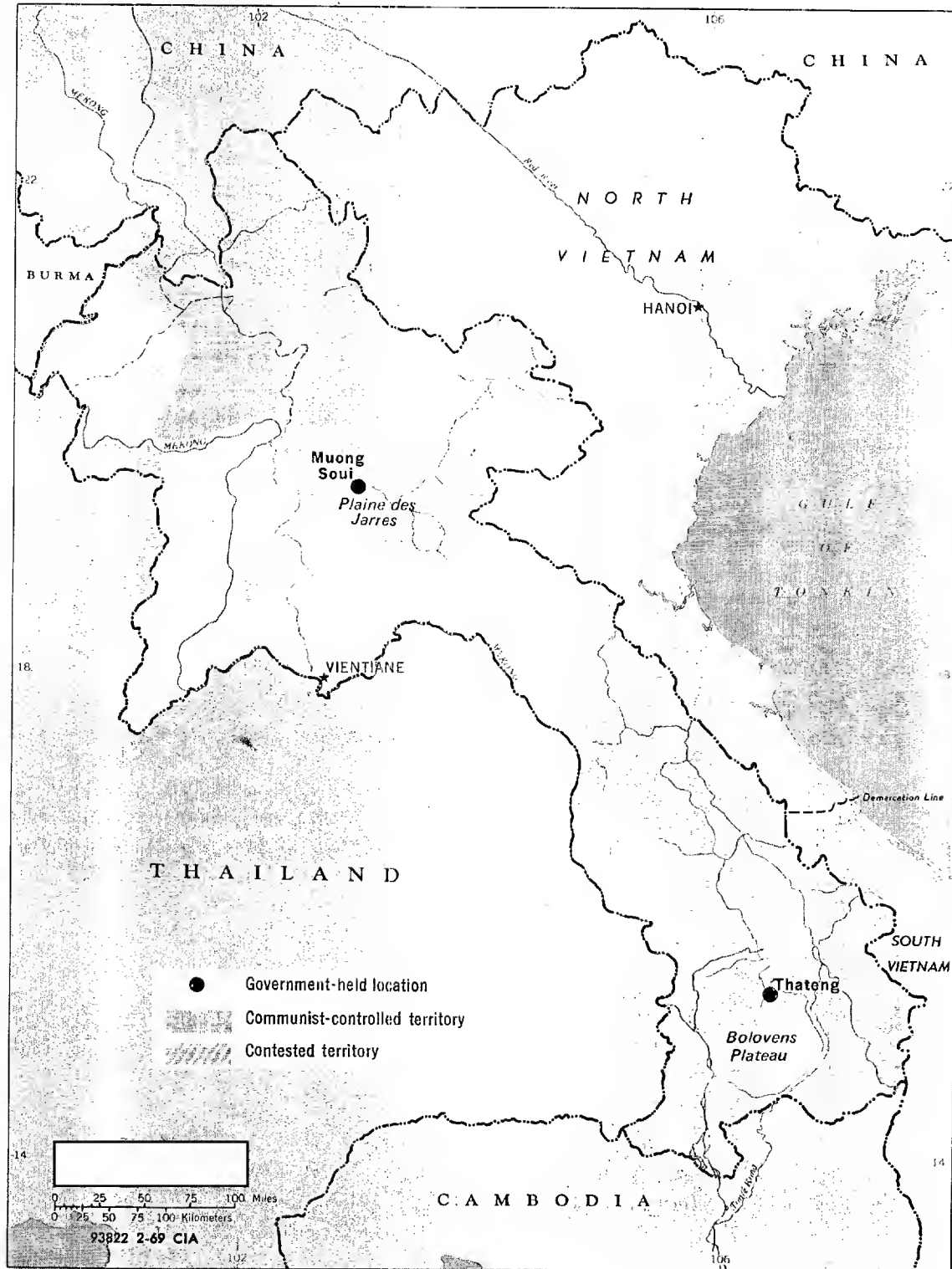
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LAOS: Current Situation



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Laos: The government is making a last effort to relieve the besieged garrison at Thateng.

Unusually heavy US air strikes are being targeted against North Vietnamese positions surrounding the garrison in order to enable the government to bring in a company of relief troops and vital supplies by helicopter. At the same time, a number of friendly guerrilla teams will move overland to harass the Communist forces. Although the air strikes may initially prove effective, the outlook for the heavily outnumbered government relief force and garrison does not appear bright. There are four or more North Vietnamese battalions in the area.

In north Laos, meanwhile, Communist terrorists on 10 February killed one US military attaché and wounded another during an attack at Muong Soui. This is the second raid in ten months against Americans at this post. There is no evidence that the raid presages a more concerted enemy effort against government forces at Muong Soui.

(Map)

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